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NOTES

A NOTE ON LONGEVITY OF LARVAL TICKS

Some time about the last week of July, 1919, a small boy living at our Biological Station brought me a number of engorged ticks which he had taken from the ears of his dog. I placed two of the largest in a small wooden box with a tight cover. In two or three days they began laying eggs. This process continued for several days when the ticks and about half the eggs were taken out of the box. Some time near the first week in August, the eggs began hatching and all were hatched by about the middle of August. There were then several hundred newly hatched ticks in the box ready and waiting to be fed, but I carefully refused to be the victim.

The box was then left closed until November 14, 1919, when it was opened and a large number were still alive and active. In fact their numbers and activity prevented the making of any estimate as to how many were actually living. On December 28, 1919, the living larvae were still numerous as was also the case on January 4, 1920. By February 25, 1920, the numbers were so reduced and the activity so diminished that it was possible to estimate fairly satisfactorily that about fifty still lived. On March 11, 1920, only a few were alive and they were rather inactive. On April 9, 1920, none could be found showing signs of life.

The dozen or so which survived this period of seven months without ever having fed show very clearly that the perpetuation of this species is well provided for by qualities of endurance as well as by great numbers of young. One is led to wonder what changes occurred in form and function of organs of these animals during the ordeal. In some respects the tick would appear to be an organism unusually favorable for certain studies in nutrition.

Read at the Western Society of
Naturalists, Seattle, June, 1920.

W. E. ALLEN.

Professor Ludwig von Graff died in Graz on December 8, 1920. While his work had been almost entirely in other fields he had written a small but valuable book on the parasites of domestic animals transferable to man and a large and extremely valuable work on The Turbellaria as Parasites and Hosts. The death of Professor Graff removes a commanding figure from the field of zoological research.

The library of the late Doctor A. J. Chalmers has been presented to the Royal Society of Medicine (England). It is to be known as the Chalmers Collection and to constitute the library of the new Section of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology. The British Medical Journal states that this is probably the finest collection of books on tropical medicine to be found anywhere.

Dr. Benjamin Schwartz has resigned as Assistant Zoologist in the Bureau of Animal Industry and has accepted the position of Professor of Protozoology and Parasitology in the University of the Philippines at Manila.

Dr. E. C. Faust has been given editorial charge of the department of Parasitology in the *China Medical Journal*.

ERRATA

In THE JOURNAL (June, 1920). vol. VI, p. 175, line 4 from bottom, for 31 (the number of hooks) read 33.

In THE JOURNAL (December, 1920), vol. VII, p. 63, line 2, for *Grahamella protista* read *Grahamella talpae* n. g., n. sp. of Protista (Brumpt, 1911:514).